

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 15-19 as follows:

1. - 14. (Canceled).

15. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus that scans a document, the image reading apparatus including ~~includes~~ an LED array in which a plurality of LED blocks are arranged in parallel and a drive control unit which performs constant-voltage drive control on the LED array, ~~with each other,~~ each of the plurality of LED blocks including a plurality of LEDs connected in series ~~with each other, and a drive control means which performs constant-voltage drive control on the LED array and that scans a document;~~ the image reading apparatus comprising:

a current-detecting ~~means which detects a~~ unit configured to detect a value ~~of current running in the LED array, the current-detecting means being drive-controlled by the drive control means; and~~

a determining unit configured to compare ~~means which compares~~ a current value detected by the current-detecting unit ~~means~~ with a predetermined current threshold and to determine permission or prohibition of scanning a document ~~for determining that scanning is to be permitted or prohibited on the basis of a comparison result,~~

wherein in a case in which if no current is detected by the current-detecting unit ~~means,~~ or in which if the detected current value does not exceed ~~exceeds~~ the

predetermined current threshold, or in which if the detected current value does not exceed the predetermined current threshold and a predetermined number of LED blocks including a faulty LED are aligned, the determining unit means determines the prohibition of scanning a document ~~that scanning is to be prohibited~~, and

wherein in a case in which if the detected current value does not exceed the predetermined current threshold and the predetermined number of LED blocks including a faulty LED are not aligned, the determining unit means determines the permission of scanning a document ~~that scanning is to be permitted~~.

16. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein the prohibition or the permission of scanning is determined by the determining unit after ~~when~~ a power supply is turned on and before adjustment, ~~the determining means operates before adjustment~~ such as an analog process or shading correction.

17. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus that includes an LED array in which a plurality of LED blocks are arranged in parallel ~~with each other~~, each of the plurality of LED blocks including a plurality of LEDs ~~elements~~ connected in series ~~with each other~~, and a drive control unit which performs a means ~~for performing~~ constant-voltage drive control on the LED array and ~~that~~ scans a document, the image reading apparatus comprising:

~~a detecting unit configured to detect faulty LED elements means which detects failure of the LED elements in each of the LED blocks; and~~

~~a control unit configured to prohibit scanning a document in a case the detecting unit detects means which prohibits a reading operation if an LED block adjacent to an LED block where the detection means has detected any faulty LED elements in adjacent LED blocks, and to permit scanning a document in a case the detecting unit does not detect has any faulty LED elements and for permitting the reading operation unless the LED block adjacent to the LED block where the detection means has detected any faulty LED elements in adjacent LED blocks has any faulty LED elements.~~

18. (Currently Amended): The image reading apparatus according to Claim 17, further comprising:

~~a failure number detecting unit configured to detect detection means that acquires the number of faulty LED elements in each LED block,~~

~~wherein the control unit prohibits scanning a document in a case in which the number of faulty LED elements detected by more than a means prohibits the reading operation if the failure number detecting means has detected unit is more than a predetermined number of faulty LED elements in the LED block.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus according to Claim 17, further comprising a display unit for displaying a warning in a case in which the drive-

control unit prohibits scanning a document ~~means which displays an LED-array failure~~
~~warning thereon when the reading operation is prohibited by the control means.~~